

**Carlisle Conservation Commission**  
**January 10, 2013**

Pursuant to the notice filed with the Town Clerk, Chair Kelly Guarino called the meeting to order in the Clark Room at the Town Hall at 7:35 p.m. Also present were Vice Chair Luke Ascolillo and Commissioners Tom Brown, Tom Brownrigg, Peter Burn, and Lee Tatistcheff and Conservation Administrator Sylvia Willard. Commissioner Bush was not present.

**Bills, Minutes, General Agenda Items & New/Pending or Old Business**

**Emergency Certificate - 74 Prospect Street, Claire Wilcox:** *Ascolillo moved to issue an Emergency Certificate to allow the proposed removal of a tree that Willard has confirmed is within close proximity to the house, Brown seconded and all voted in favor.*

**Carlisle Cranberry Bog Farming Agreement Committee:** Willard distributed the roster of the newly formed Cranberry Bog Farming Agreement Committee for 2015 as follows: Luke Ascolillo (ConsCom) , John Ballantine, Jr., Thomas Brown (ConsCom), Tim Donohue (LSC), Deborah Geltner (LSC), Steve Hinton (former ConsCom/Bog Lease Committee), Patti Holdsworth, Carolyn Kiely, and Warren Lyman (LSC).

**Town Report:** Willard reported she is in the process of drafting the 2012 Town Report due February 1, 2013.

**Boy Scout Camping Trip:** Boy Scout Troop #135 Leader, Steve Golson, had agreed to provide the Commission with a post-trip report of their overnight camping trip on December 1 and 2. He distributed a packet that had been prepared by one of the scouts that included photographs and a map of the group's five-mile trek through to their campsite at the Town Forest. He said it was a very positive experience for the boys to see what was right here in their home town and that they are looking forward to future trips. Golson said the trip gave the group an opportunity to do some "Leave No Trace" training, helping the scouts to gain an awareness of the impact of outdoor activities on the environment, and teaching them to respect the rights of other users of the outdoors now and into the future.

Golson also provided the Commission with some feedback relative to the permitting process. He noted that there are some inconsistencies between the "Rules and Regulations for Use of Conservation Land" and the "Town of Carlisle Camping Regulations", specifically referencing camp stove/campfire use. He also asked the Commission to review the requirements relative to group size so that groups of up to twenty individuals could coordinate the permit application process with the Administrator, not necessarily being required to come to the Commission in order to obtain a permit. He said this would be helpful given the fact that they often don't know the total number of participants for a given event until the day of. Relative to the insurance binder requirements, the Commission agreed that Golson could submit an Annual Insurance Binder for scout activities on conservation land in lieu of individual certificates of insurance for each event.

Guarino thanked Golson on behalf of the Commission for his presentation and for the feedback on the regulations, which they agreed to take under consideration during their next review process.

### **8:00 (DEP #125-0933) Notice of Intent, Continued Hearing**

**Applicant: Norma Read**

**Project Location: 103 Indian Hill**

**Project Description: Installation of a septic tank, pump chamber, distribution box and grading associated with a soil absorption system**

Guarino reopened the Continued Hearing for DEP #125-0933 under the provisions of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Carlisle Wetlands Protection Bylaw. Although the Commission had found the proposed project to be acceptable when the hearing was opened on December 18, it was continued pending the issuance of a DEP file number, which has subsequently been received. *Burn moved to close the hearing for DEP #125-0933, Ascolillo seconded and all voted in favor. Brown moved to issue a Standard Order of Conditions, referencing the revised Plan dated December 13, 2012, Tatistcheff seconded and all voted in favor.*

### **(DEP #125-0932) Notice of Intent, Continued Hearing**

**Applicant: Grace Tilton**

**Project Location: 400 Concord Street**

**Project Description: Demolition of an existing garage, construction of a new, larger garage and associated paving and grading**

Guarino reopened the Continued Hearing for DEP #125-0932 under the provisions of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Carlisle Wetlands Protection Bylaw. Although the Commission had found the proposed project to be acceptable when the hearing was opened, it was continued pending the issuance of a DEP file number, which has subsequently been received. *Tatistcheff moved to close the hearing for DEP #125-0932, Ascolillo seconded and all voted in favor. Ascolillo moved to issue a Standard Order of Conditions, Brown seconded and all voted in favor.*

**Conservation Cluster - 100 Long Ridge Road, Jeffrey Brem:** Guarino announced that the Planning Board received a letter dated January 3, 2013 from the property owner requesting they accept and approve his request to withdraw the Special Permit for a proposed Conservation Cluster. The Planning Board will review the request at their January 14, 2013 meeting.

**Elliott Preserve Acquisition Update:** Steve Tobin of CCF was present for the continued discussion of the Commission's willingness for additional assistance to SVT and CCF in their efforts to purchase the CR for the Elliott Preserve. Tobin had been present at the Commission's previous meeting to present the team's revised fundraising strategy following the news that their application for a state Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND) grant had been denied. According to their revised calculations, they will need an additional \$180,000 in Town of Carlisle CPC funds, along with an additional \$101,545 to be raised through private donations, in order to meet the shortfall of \$281,545. Tobin discussed the possibility of the Commission offsetting the CPC request with an additional \$30,000 from the Conservation Fund.

At their previous meeting, the Commission had voted to request a second round of CPC Funding and to contribute additional funds from the Conservation Fund toward the purchase, with the amounts to be determined.

Although this will be the second donation from the Conservation Fund in support of this project, Treasurer Larry Barton had requested that the Commission confirm with Town Counsel that this is in fact an appropriate use of this fund.

Pending this confirmation, *Brown moved to release \$30,000 from the Conservation Fund to aid in the purchase of the Elliott Preserve CR, Tatischeff seconded and all voted in favor.* The amount requested in the CPC Project Application will be reduced from \$180,000 to \$150,000, with the application being due by January 25, 2013. The Commission also approved Willard's draft letter to the EOEEA requesting that they keep this project in mind should additional funds become available prior to June 30, 2013, when the offer to purchase the CR expires.

**Benfield Conservation Land Maintenance:** The Commission resumed a discussion relative to the field maintenance expenses associated with the Benfield Conservation Land. Because Neighborhood of Affordable Housing (NOAH) will be locating wellheads and associated infrastructure for the Benfield Affordable Housing on the Benfield Conservation Land, the Commission had previously attempted to clarify what their plans are for assisting with ongoing maintenance of the field. There has been no response to date to this email, which had been sent to the Housing Authority in mid December. Brown, who is heading up the Commission's FY14 Budget Planning process, offered to follow up in order to get clarification on the issue.

**FY 14 Budget Process:** The Conservation Commission is scheduled to meet with FinCom on February 11, 2013 at 7:45 p.m. to discuss a possible increase in their budget. Of particular importance will be the discussion of the Maintenance Line Item, which covers expenses associated with field mowing at Towle and Benfield, and trash collection on conservation lands. Last year the Commission implemented what they hope will be a multi-year intensive mowing program at Towle in an effort to begin getting the buckthorn and poison ivy under control. They also were able to fund a field edge clearing project at Foss Farm, which they may wish to pursue at several other conservation areas in the near future.

Other miscellaneous budget items the Commission needs to address include the MACC dues increase, the Cranberry Bog House Fire Alarm Monitoring System, ADA requirements for parking lot maintenance, and the possibility of hiring a summer intern to assist with invasives management projects.

#### **Chelmsford Water District Well Field Update:**

Guarino announced that the town had received a letter dated December 21, 2012 from the Board of Water Commissioners of the Chelmsford Water District announcing their decision to temporarily suspend its efforts in pursuing the proposed well field at the Barnes Terrace location (near the Cranberry Bog). The letter indicated that their decision was due in part to its concern over the Chelmsford Conservation Commission's apparent lack of support for and understanding of the scope of the project. Guarino said she had forwarded the letter to Carlisle's Special Counsel, who has recommended that the Commission do a public records request of all minutes and communication with the engineering firm, StanTech and the DEP.

Guarino reported also attending the recent BOS meeting at request of Town Administrator to discuss steps moving forward on the issue. The BOS emphasized the importance of having a clear understanding of Carlisle's water rights and then conveying this to the Chelmsford Water District.

They encouraged the Commission to request notification should the Water District decide to move forward in the future.

In the meantime, the Commission will move forward with the public records request and await a response from Town Counsel relative to those documents.

**Stream Gauge for Cranberry Bog/River Meadow Brook:** Willard distributed an email from Warren Lyman summarizing his recent efforts to investigate the installation of a stream flow monitoring station on River Meadow Brook in Carlisle near the Cranberry Bog. Watershed Ecologist Laila Parker from the Mass Dept of Fish and Game's Division of Ecological Restoration has indicated to Lyman that the proposal will require approval from the ConsCom and submission of additional information in order to determine whether her team can support the request.

The Commission unanimously supported investigating the project, with the next step being to submit an application and to schedule a site visit with members of the Instream Flow Stewardship team in order to determine an appropriate location for the monitoring station.

**OPDMD Regulations for Municipal Lands:** In order to address the Department of Justice's revised rules regarding access to recreation areas by people with mobility disabilities, John Gorecki is coordinating an effort on behalf of the BOS to establish parallel regulations for both conservation lands and other town owned-land. Toward this effort, the BOS has requested that a representative from the Commission to work with them on this issue. Burn nominated Bush, who was not present to accept the nomination.

**9:15 p.m.** *Burn moved to adjourn, Ascolillo seconded and all voted in favor.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Hopkins  
Administrative Assistant